

permission for students to enroll in the survival schools. All parents should be able to make decisions about their children's education, and this bill provides Native American parents with new opportunities to do so.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthwhile legislation.

# INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND TITLE 17, UNITED STATES CODE

## HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague from Virginia, Mr. GOODLATTE, and I introduce a bill to amend Section 119 of Title 17 of the United States Code. This modest, consumer-focused measure would simply allow a court to accept a negotiated settlement between parties to a lawsuit in which it is alleged that a satellite television provider has engaged in copyright infringement by providing the signals of out-of-market television stations to ineligible homes.

I, like many of our colleagues, have been flooded with phone calls over the last several weeks from concerned constituents who subscribe to EchoStar's DISH network satellite television service. They are upset and confused because their access to the signals of out-of-market network television stations was suddenly cut off, and many of them are now unable to receive any network television service from DISH. Many of the affected households are in rural and underserved areas with a limited choice of alternative video programming providers to turn to. In my district alone, thousands of people have lost service, and nationwide, 800,000 are affected.

The Satellite Home Viewer Act (SHVA), which was enacted with my support in 1988, allows residents to receive by satellite the network signals they cannot receive over-the-air from their local broadcast television stations. As a result, thousands of Southwest Virginians and millions of Americans who cannot view local television signals over the air today receive by satellite ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC network channels that originate from markets outside of their own communities. In some areas of the United States, particularly in mountainous regions like Southwest Virginia, a home may be predicted to receive a strong over-the-air signal from a local television station but not actually get a quality picture. Receipt of good local television signals is effectively blocked by obstructions between viewers' homes and the local station. These households have come to depend on the distant network channels for important news and emergency information, as well as network programming. Without SHVA, millions of Americans, particularly those in remote areas, would be denied network television programming.

Since December 1, 2006, EchoStar's DISH network has been prohibited by a permanent injunction from providing out-of-market signals to any of its subscribers due to violations of SHVA. The court which enjoined EchoStar also rejected a settlement negotiated by EchoStar and affiliates of the ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC networks which would have avoided

mass consumer disruption by allowing DISH to continue to provide most out-of-market channels. I am deeply disappointed that the court found that it could not accept the settlement, an outcome which was acceptable to the defendant and four of five plaintiffs in the case and which would not have prevented the fifth plaintiff from availing itself of the remedies provided by statute. In virtually any other lawsuit, the parties may settle at any time, even after the jury or judge has rendered its decision. I am gravely concerned that the result of the court's action has been a denial of network programming to hundreds of thousands of households located primarily in remote areas.

The simple, straightforward measure we introduce today would merely clarify that the court has the option of accepting a settlement between the parties to a distant signal copyright infringement lawsuit. It would enable the court to protect consumers, who are the true victims here, from the abrupt cutoff of all network television service. The ability to receive network television programming is important to Southwest Virginians, and I am committed to assuring its availability by satellite throughout my district.

I therefore urge my colleagues to protect rural households by adopting this measure and clarifying that a court may adopt a settlement to which the parties in a lawsuit have agreed.

# WELCOME TO FIRST LADY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN, MRS. MEHRIBAN ALIYEVA

## HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as the new co-chairman of the Azerbaijan Caucus, it is a privilege to join with my good friend, the gentleman from Texas and fellow co-chairman SOLOMON ORTIZ, to welcome to Washington, DC, the first lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva.

We welcome Mrs. Aliyeva as a member of the Azerbaijan parliament—Milli Majlis—and as chairperson of the United States-Azerbaijan Inter-Parliamentary Working Group.

This week, Mrs. Aliyeva and a delegation of parliamentarians from Azerbaijan are meeting with Members of Congress and administration offices to further reinforce understanding of Azerbaijan and encourage dialogue between Congress and the Milli Majlis.

Members of the parliamentary delegation include: Gultakin Hacıyeva, New Azerbaijan Party; Ganira Pashayeva, Independent; Evda Abramov, Independent; Malahat Hasanova, New Azerbaijan Party; and Ali Huseynov, New Azerbaijan Party. Also part of the delegation is Deputy Foreign Minister Hafiz Pashayev, a former ambassador from the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United States.

We thank our distinguished colleagues for their visit and encourage continued support of the Inter-Parliamentary Working Group and coordination with the Republic of Azerbaijan, one of our important strategic allies.

# TRIBUTE TO KAZAKHSTAN

## HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the country of Kazakhstan on the occasion of its 15th anniversary of independence from the former Soviet Union on December 16, 1991. Kazakhstan has been at the crossroads of trade and empires for centuries along the ancient Silk Road, and today plays an increasingly important role in the stability and security of the Central Asian region, and of our world.

I had the privilege of visiting Kazakhstan along with Congressman JIM McDERMOTT, Congressman MAURICE HINCHEY and former member Don Bonker in January of this year to see first hand the accomplishments that have been made since 1991. While in Kazakhstan we spent considerable time with members of the President's Cabinet and the current speaker of the senate, Nurtai Abykayev learning about current work going on in their country and their endeavors in making Kazakhstan a real leader in Asia and the world.

In the first few years after independence, Kazakhstan successfully rid itself of the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and closed the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, an unwanted legacy from the U.S.S.R., and continues to be a model for the global community. In 2005, the U.S. Senate unanimously adopted a resolution congratulating Kazakhstan on the 10th anniversary of the removal of all nuclear weapons from the country and commended Kazakhstan-U.S. cooperation in this sphere as a "model." Earlier this year, this House unanimously adopted resolution 905 congratulating Kazakhstan on the 15th anniversary of the closure of the world's second largest nuclear test site in the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan and for its efforts on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Kazakhstan condemned the terrorist attacks against the U.S. on September 11, 2001 and has been a staunch supporter of the U.S. led international coalition against global terrorism since. Kazakhstan provides free overflight rights and a major international airport for U.S. and coalition aircraft for operations in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan works with the international community to bring peace and stability to Iraq following the U.S. led campaign to end Saddam Hussein's regime. Kazakh military engineers in that country have destroyed more than 4 million pieces of ordnance since 2003.

On a visit to Astana in 2005, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "Today, Kazakhstan is poised and ready to break a path for a new Silk Road, a great corridor of reform . . . A strong and prosperous and democratic Kazakhstan will once again energize the global transmission of learning, and trade and freedom across the steppes of Central Asia. This nation has a glorious past and it is destined for a hopeful future. Kazakhstan's greatest days lie ahead of it. And the United States wants to be your partner."

During his 2006 visit to Washington President Nazarbayev and President George W. Bush signed a joint statement which says, "We are satisfied with the progress made by

Kazakhstan and the United States of America in the promotion of our strategic partnership, and announce our commitment to promote stability, prosperity and democratic reforms in Central Asia and outside of the region." The joint statement also stipulates the U.S. support for Kazakhstan's plan for accession to the group of the 50 most competitive countries in the world, according to the strategy of President Nursultan Nazarbaev, and for Kazakhstan's membership in the WTO. The document recognizes Kazakhstan's leadership in regional integration, considering its significant contributions in Eurasia and Afghanistan. The joint statement outlined a number of directions of the bilateral cooperation underlining "we announce our intention to further strengthen our strategic partnership via strengthening strategic dialogues on energy, military collaboration, trade, investments and democratization. We express solid confidence that our enhanced strategic partnership will assist to security, prosperity and democracy development in the 21st century."

President Nursultan Nazarbayev has called for a massive transformation of Kazakhstan's political life and strengthening the country's move to democracy in a March 2006 speech to the first session of the State Commission. The priorities include significant strengthening of the role of the national Parliament, increasing the numbers of deputies in both houses of Parliament; continuing the introduction of elections of akims—mayors—at district levels, and the introduction of a bill on local self-government. "Democracy is the choice of civilized people, and it is our choice too," President Nazarbayev said.

Mr. Speaker, because of Kazakhstan's peaceful transition to democracy, its strong commitment to eliminating nuclear weapons, and her strong support for our country in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, I rise today to congratulate all her people on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of their independence.

H.R. 4766, ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT OF 2006

### HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006. H.R. 4766 will help to preserve all the indigenous languages that are still being spoken.

It is estimated that only 20 indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050. Providing grants to Native American language programs consisting of language nests, survival schools, and restoration programs will help to preserve this important part of our Nation's history and culture.

By encouraging a greater focus on Native language programs, we are not only striving to preserve the identity of the Nation's tribes, but we're encouraging greater academic performance among Native American students as well. H.R. 4766 requires that Native American language survival schools work toward a goal of all students achieving both fluency in a Na-

tive American language and academic proficiency in mathematics, reading (or language arts), and science. It is my intention that students in survival school programs demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to their appropriate grade level.

It is also my intention that the Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Native Americans administer this program in such a way that Native American survival school grantees be required to obtain parental permission for students to enroll in the survival schools. Parents should be able to make decisions about their children's education, and H.R. 4766 provides Native American parents with new opportunities to do so.

### INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DEMOCRACY

#### HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU) will be hosting an International Symposium on Democracy and Congress this December 8 through 10, 2006 in Taipei, Taiwan.

The DPU is a non-government organization established in 2005 for the purpose of enhancing stronger ties among members of parliaments around the Pacific Rim. DPU's goals are to train young leaders to install democracy in their own countries, to consolidate democracy and to compromise on regional differences.

This year's symposium will attract participants from Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, the Republic of China and other countries. Participants will discuss such topics as the workings of congresses, presidential systems, and prospects for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will find the time to go to Taiwan to participate in the symposium and to visit with the leaders in Taiwan regarding bilateral relations, the war on terror, and the crisis in the Korean peninsula.

Also, I offer my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan's Vice President Annette Lu for putting this symposium together. I applaud her leadership.

### HONORING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE BY FIDELITY ASSOCIATES INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fidelity Associates Insurance and Financial Services for their 100 years of service to Spokane, Washington. Fidelity Associates is one of the Inland Northwest's largest locally owned, independent insurance agencies, and one of its richest in terms of history and tradition. Fidelity Associates is a family-owned business and has the distinction of being one of the few to be passed from the hands of the third generation to those of a fourth.

In 100 years, this proud company has become a leader in the insurance world. From humble roots, it has grown to manage premiums in excess of \$40,000,000. This places Fidelity in the top 5 percent of all United States insurance agencies. Its employees are directly involved with over 8,500 clients through risk management, insurance, employee benefits and financial services. On top of all this, the employees of Fidelity Associates post thousands of hours toward community service each year.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and thank Fidelity Associates Insurance and Financial Services, the Jones Family, and the exemplary employees for their 100 remarkable years of service to our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating this company and the family which has led it for so long.

### A TRIBUTE TO THE HILLIARD DAVIDSON WILDCATS, THE 2006 OHIO HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

#### HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 6, 2006*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations and adulations to the 2006 Hilliard Davidson Wildcats football team, which on Saturday, December 2, earned the title of State Champions in the Division I Ohio State Football Playoffs, and finished its storybook season a perfect 15-0.

No superlative or tired sports cliché can effectively capture the magic of the Wildcats' season. Consistently overlooked and routinely outsize by its opponent, week after week, Davidson utilized its underdog role, its unglamorous but methodical offense, and its blistering defense to knock off yet another favored adversary. Davidson won with discipline, with heart, and perhaps most importantly, with class and dignity.

Quietly, Davidson has amassed a 73-25 record under the leadership of Coach Brian White, and has firmly asserted itself as a premier, dynastic program in central Ohio. However, each year, Davidson and other central Ohio high school football programs are largely ignored by the football experts and pundits, and relegated to the shadows of storied, goliath programs in the northeast and southwest parts of the state.

This year, however, one by one, the Goliaths fell to David—or in this case, Davidson. In its heart-stopping, double overtime victory on Saturday, Davidson fully entrenched itself in the hearts and minds of central Ohio football fans, and served notice to high school football aficionados across the State and Nation that Hilliard Davidson is second to no one.

Throughout its historic championship run, Hilliard Davidson represented the ideal virtues of amateur athletic programs—teamwork, tenacity, competitiveness, and dignity—and its storybook season will be recounted for generations to come in central Ohio.

I could not be more proud than to represent Hilliard Davidson High School in Congress, and I congratulate the players, coaches, fans and parents who made 2006 such a memorable one.